

AMENDMENT (A) CLAIMSClaims What is claimed is:

- 5 1. (amended) A refractory fireback for use in domestic open fireplaces and which in use surrounds [[the]] a fire bed and which extends upwardly to a throat which in use connects with a chimney, the fireback having walls with inner surfaces that slope forming one of a generally frustoconical and pyramidal shape and sloping steadily inwardly towards the throat to decrease the cross sectional area of the inner surfaces of the fireback, the cross section of the fireback having a larger area being at a height substantially at the level of the fire bed and a smaller area being adjacent the throat.
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- 15 2. (original) A fireback as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the inner surfaces of the fireback walls have at least in some places their surface area increased by having raised surface features thereon.
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3. (amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the inner surface surfaces have at least in some area areas, corrugations or undulations formed thereon.
- 25 4. (amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the corrugations or undulations form peaks lying in planes extending substantially parallel to the base of the fireback.
5. (amended) A fireback as claimed in Claims Claim 1, wherein the inner surfaces of the fireback slope inwardly at an angle of between 15-25 degrees of arc from the vertical, preferably about 21 degrees.
6. (canceled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

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9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

10 11. (amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim [[6]] 15, wherein the fireback is formed as a single refractory cement casting.

12. (amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim [[8]] 17, wherein the fireback is formed as a single refractory cement casting.

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13. (amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim [[6]] 15, wherein the base portion of the fireback from its base to a height substantially level with the fire bed may be vertical.

20 14. (amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim [[8]] 17, wherein the base portion of the fireback from its base to a height substantially level with the fire bed may be vertical.

25 15. (new) A fireback as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner surfaces of the fireback are of generally frustoconical shape and are semi-circular in horizontal cross-section with the fireback opening being formed on the diameter thereof.

16. (new) A fireback as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the inner surfaces of the

fireback are of a generally pyramidal shape.

17. (new) A fireback as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the fireback has a polygonal base having at least six sides with the fireback opening being formed on a centre line of the base.